

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Production of Penicillin in the Russian Zone

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INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
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50X1-HUM

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1. The production of penicillin in the DDR is achieved by the cultivation of the bacteria by a deep tank process. The cultivation is carried out by the addition to the penicillin culture of phenylacetic acid, which results in a maximum production of penicillin G. This process was developed by Dr. Josef Klosa, of Lessing-Chemie, Erfurt.
2. Penicillin produced in the DDR has an average penicillin G content of 80 per cent.
3. The concentration of penicillin preparations manufactured in the DDR has increased as follows:

July 1949	300	International units per milligram
October 1949	600	" " " "
November 1949	100 (sic)	" " " "

4. In 1948, 203 million units of penicillin were produced. In September 1949, the Minister for Industry gave orders for production to be increased. By January 1950, the September production had been increased by 15 per cent. The total production for 1949 was 5.04 billion units. As a result of this increased production, hospitals can now be supplied with as much penicillin as they need.
5. Shortage of raw materials and inefficient means of cultivation have inevitably kept the price high. It is, however, decreasing, as can be seen by the following table:

In 1948	1 million units cost	500 DM
In February 1949	" " " "	180 DM
In December 1949	" " " "	90 DM
In July 1950	" " " "	45 DM

It is hoped to be able to reduce the price to 10 DM per million units.

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6. The greater part of the penicillin produced in the DDR is produced by:
 - a. Pharmazeutisches Werk Madaus, Radeboul, which belongs to the VVB (Z) Pharma.
 - b. Jenapharm, Institut für Mikrobiologie, Schott-Zeiss-Institut, Jena, which belongs to the VVB Pharma.
7. Pharma Madaus
 - a. The chief research chemist is Dozent Dr. Robert Thren.
 - b. Production was started in March 1947. The present production is 100 times greater than the original.
 - c. The Madaus laboratories are at present concerned with research on improving the purity of the penicillin produced.
 - d. The types of penicillin produced are:
 - Penicillin jelly
 - Penicillin culture filtration (Myco liquid)
 - Penicillin sodium salt
 - Penicillin ointment (200 international units per gram)
 - Penicillin powder (1000 international units per package)
8. Jenapharm
 - a. The types of penicillin produced include:
 - 1) Penicillin powder (Mundpuder) "Jenapharm":
Small phials containing 5 grams of penicillin with a total content of 2500 international units.
 - 2) Penicillin "Jenapharm":
Calcium salt of penicillin in bottles containing 120,000 and 200,000 international units, for injecting.
 - 3) Penicillin calcium salt
In phials containing 500 and 1000 international units.
 - 4) Experiments are also being made in the actual cultivation of penicillin.
9. Some penicillin was being produced by the privately-owned firm of Lessing-Chemie, Altonaerstrasse 25a, Erfurt, until December 1949, when, because of a shortage of raw materials, the firm was taken over by the Pronassol GmbH, Erfurt, which belongs to the VVB Papier-Chemie, Thuringen. When the firm was taken over, the stocks of penicillin on hand were sold and production ceased completely. It has not been resumed as yet, although the necessary equipment is available.
10. No penicillin is produced by the Sächsisches Serumwerk A.G., Dresden A.1, Zirkusstrasse 40.

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